

09/702,298

- 2 -

RECEIVED
CENTRALFAXCENTER

NOV 14 2008

Amendments to the Claims

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Amended) A microscope slide stainer comprising:
 - a plurality of slide cavities into which microscope slides are inserted and into which liquids are dispensed, each cavity also containing a sufficient volume for liquid to cover a microscope slide;
 - a liquid dispenser including an orifice decoupled from each cavity from which liquid is dispensed from above into each cavity, said orifice and each cavity being mounted on separate structures that provide relative movement between the orifice and each cavity under microprocessor control so as to align the orifice over any selected cavity of the plurality of slide cavities; and
 - a liquid aspirator decoupled from each cavity, said aspirator being capable of removing liquid from the selected cavity.
4. (Previously Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a slide carrier capable of moving the slide that is contained in the selected cavity.
5. (Previously Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the selected cavity.
6. (Previously Presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 5 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.

09/702,298

- 3 -

7. (Previously Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a pressurized rinse bottle from which rinse fluid is dispensed into the cavity of said selected cavity.
8. (Previously Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the selected cavity.
9. (Previously Presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 8 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.
10. (Previously Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the liquid aspirator comprises:
 - a vacuum bottle;
 - a vacuum hose extending from the vacuum bottle; and
 - a vacuum hose transport mechanism for bringing the end of the vacuum hose to the selected cavity.
11. (Previously Amended) A method of staining slides comprising:
 - mounting a plurality of slide cavities on a first structure and an orifice of a liquid dispenser on a second structure, the first and second structures being moveable relative to one another;
 - inserting a slide into one of the plurality of slide cavities, into which liquids can be dispensed, each cavity containing a sufficient volume for liquid to cover the slide;
 - providing relative movement between the first and second structures to provide relative movement between the plurality of slide cavities and the orifice under microprocessor control to align the orifice with a slide in a selected one of the plurality of slide cavities;
 - dispensing liquid from above into the selected cavity through the orifice, said liquid also contacting said slide; and
 - aspirating liquid from the selected cavity.

09/702,298

- 4 -

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the liquid is aspirated from the selected cavity by extending a vacuum hose to the selected cavity and collecting the liquid into a vacuum bottle.
13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising heating the slide contained in the selected cavity.
14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising heating the slide contained in the selected cavity.
15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising moving a slide that is contained in a selected cavity.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising adding rinse fluid from a pressurized rinse bottle.
17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of moving the cavities and a liquid aspirator relative to each other prior to aspirating liquid from the selected cavity.
18. (Previously Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3 wherein the cavities and liquid aspirator are capable of relative movement under microprocessor control so as to align the aspirator with a slide in a selected one of the plurality of slide cavities.